

Pain Management Committee Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2002

Based on continued discussion the following DRAFT of Priorities & Recommendations was refined.

Conclusion:

Whereas cancer pain consists of acute and chronic pain; and the barriers to adequate assessment and management in????? does not differ from pain management in non-malignant conditions; and the overarching principles of assessment and management are similar, we encourage that the recommendations in this document be extended to pain and its management.

Education & Training:

- Nursing and Medical students should receive both didactic and clinical application to pain management.
 - Clinical rotation modules
- Residents should be required to view the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) video, "A Sense of Balance," before receiving licensure.
 - A Sense of Balance, is a videotape presentation on drugs, chronic pain, and related subjects including appropriate prescribing of controlled drugs, over prescribing, the addicted physician and identifying the drug seeking patient. This video presents the position of the Maryland Medical Board as well as that of the Federation of State Medical Boards on prescribing to patients with pain.
 - This video should be digitally transferred to the web for ease and increased access.
 - But, keep in mind that not everyone's Internet connection is satisfactory for viewing video presentations.
 - All new Maryland medical licensees are already required to go through the BPQA orientation program some time during the first two years they are licensed to practice medicine in Maryland. The video may already be a part of that orientation. If not, it should be. That's less intrusive than making them watch the video before starting in practice since they may be coming from distant states, and it may delay licensure to make them watch the video before receiving their license.
- Educate licensing boards for Maryland health care providers regarding pain management.
- Educate healthcare provider institutions about current and new legislation
- Practicing physicians/ specialists should be offered a discount on malpractice insurance for continuing education in the area of Pain Management.

- All healthcare providers should be required to have earned continuing education credits in the area of pain management before re-certification is issued.
- All healthcare provider-licensing boards should develop a statement about the practice's role in pain assessment and management, including minimum competencies and education requirements. Providers should be required to view it prior to licensing. It should be made available through the web in a user-friendly format

Regulatory/ Insurance/ Policy:

- Modify State regulations to facilitate availability and prescribing of. Extend assistance for payment for pain medications for financially compromised at X% above poverty levels. (Regarding educating State board members and the insurance commission regarding cancer pain management.)
- Address issues of drug reimbursement for prescription drugs (particularly Medicaid, of prior authorizations, of prescription monitoring).
- Insurance companies who provide insurance in Maryland should provide referral and treatment by a pain specialist
- Therapeutic interventions to manage pain including pharmacologic (long and short acting analgesics & adjuvants), and non-pharmacologic and **interventrol** procedures (i.e.: strontium, pamidronate, temporary & permanent blocks, etc.).

Additional Categories to consider:

1. Public Relations & the Community
2. Assessment
3. Disparities & Cultural Barriers (*national standards on Cultural Competence*)
4. Alternative Therapies
5. Advanced Directives
6. Accountability (*electronic medical records – EMR's*)
7. Patient Adherence and reasons for non-compliance
8. Access (payment, pharmacy locations, formulary issues)
9. Public/patient education to the appropriateness of pain management.

Statewide professional organizations should be encouraged to provide professional education about pain and its management.

Patient Education:

Join with current non-profit organizations to provide culturally sensitive education to consumers and **educators**. Things to consider:

1. PSA Announcements
2. Bulletin Boards
3. Translation of patient education materials
4. Public TV presentations
 - Current and new pain legislation and who to contact for uncontrolled pain.